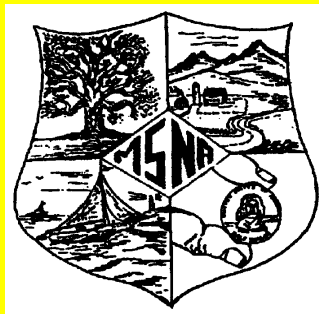
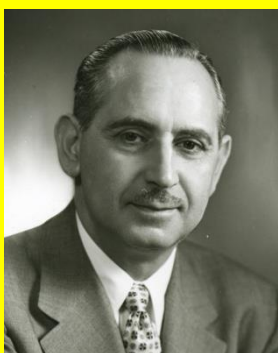


The Maryland Numismatist



Joseph Meyerhoff
Baltimore Patron of the Arts



Dues are Due! Renewal form is on page 30.
Winter, 2009 Volume 37 – No. 4

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

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President's Message

Having served as MSNA's Vice President for the past two years, I look forward to the next two years as President. My thanks and appreciation to Frank Murphy for his capable leadership and service as he helped MSNA transition from an annual coin show focus towards collaboration and support of other numismatic organizations and endeavors. In 2008, MSNA co-hosted the ANA World's Fair of Money in Baltimore. In 2009, we inaugurated our Distinguished Lecture Series and Exhibits in association with the summer Whitman Coin and Currency Show. The success of both these endeavors confirmed my thinking that this shift was in the best interest of MSNA and its membership. As President for 2010–2011, I will do my best to build on that direction and focus.



To the membership unfamiliar with my numismatic background, I have been a collector of coins and other numismatic material from the time I was a teenager (some 35 years if I can still do my math). In my youth, my grandfather cultivated my interest in coins by frequently showing me his meager collection of U.S. coins he accumulated haphazardly during the Great Depression, when many folks spent long-saved “rainy-day” money from drawers and jars to make ends meet. I’ve been active with various numismatic organizations at local, state, and national levels since 1981. I’ve served five terms as Montgomery County Coin Club President and, as their Club Secretary, more times than I’ll admit. I look forward to visiting as many MSNA member clubs as time and circumstances permit over the next two years to better familiarize myself with our organization and membership.

MSNA has already started work on our 2010 Distinguished Lecturer program. I would also like to lead some initiatives for refreshing and expanding our organization’s presence on the internet. Towards this end any recommendations, ideas, offers of talent, or other engagement from our membership is welcome.

In closing, please take time to read and enjoy this issue of the *Maryland Numismatist*. I look forward to reading any submission of articles for the 2010 Best Article contest announced in the Autumn 2009 issue. Therefore, be busy with the pen or keyboard and start your composition. Also, I do thank you for allowing me to accept the MSNA gavel.

Julian M. Leidman

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- Attendance at every major U.S. auction held since 1968, representing as many as 25 bidders at the same time
- Consultation to corporations, dealers, and collectors in order to develop, build and expand collections as well as being instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby
- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Numismatists Guild

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality, I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

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- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



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Baltimore Coin Club Issues Medal for 75 Years



A coin club was organized in Baltimore, Maryland on March 10, 1935 at a meeting held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. The first regular meeting was held on April 2 at 612 N. Calvert Street, where it was decided that the name should be the Baltimore Coin Club. At the third meeting, held two weeks later in the Municipal Museum (225 N. Holliday Street, now the Baltimore City Life Museums), the constitution and by-laws were adopted. The club was incorporated the following year.

The Baltimore Coin Club (BCC) held a contest to design a medal celebrating the 75th anniversary of the club's founding. The winning design was submitted by BCC Past President Bryce Doxzon, who was rewarded with the first three-medal set. The obverse of the 2010-dated medal has an image of the monument commemorating the fallen at the Battle of Baltimore in September, 1814--one of the turning points in the War of 1812. The Battle Monument is also the official government emblem of, and is depicted on the flag of, the City of Baltimore. The reverse portrays the club seal which incorporates the seal of the State of Maryland.

The club voted to produce seventy-five three-medal sets. Osborne Coinage Company of Cincinnati, Ohio struck the 39mm reeded edge medals in gold (brass), verbronz (antique bronze) and nickel-silver. A limited number of sets remain and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis for \$15.00, plus \$5.00 for postage if mailed. Send name, mailing address and a check made out to Baltimore Coin Club to: The Baltimore Coin Club, P.O. Box 43681, Baltimore, MD 21236-0273.



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Joseph Meyerhoff Baltimore Patron of the Arts

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

It has been said that there are six degrees of separation between every human on earth. For Jews, there are just three. So I should not have been surprised when researching a set of rare Jewish medals from New York that there was a Maryland connection. That connection was Joseph Meyerhoff, or more specifically, his family charity funds, headquartered in Baltimore.

The Philanthropist

Joseph Meyerhoff was born in Pereshepyne, now in eastern Ukraine (then part of the Czarist Russian Empire) on April 8, 1899. His family came to Baltimore when he was seven years old. He graduated from Baltimore City College and later earned a law degree at the University of Maryland by attending night school. He started working in law but soon moved into real estate where he made his fortune. One of his first properties was the Edmondson Village Shopping Center which opened in 1947. This was one of the first shopping centers in the area. It still exists today on Route 40 about 2½ miles inside the Baltimore Beltway, where Route 40 is Edmondson Avenue. He built a number of commercial properties before retiring in 1979.

Meyerhoff was an active donor all his life. In 1950, he and fifty other Jewish leaders met with Israel Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to help shore up the shaky finances of the new state (founded in 1948). The United Jewish Appeal had been the primary source of funding for the *Yishuv* (Jews living under the British Palestine Mandate) since 1939, but the State of Israel's financial needs were too great to rely on small donations. The group convinced Ben Gurion to issue bonds and he created the American Finance and Development Corporation for Israel for that purpose, the first time the *Yishuv* raised funds by borrowing. Israel Bonds have been a great success for both the State and bondholders. When Joseph Meyerhoff became Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, he launched the Israel Education Fund which allows wealthy donors to direct how their donations are used for capital projects and social services in Israel, particularly building schools & providing scholarships.

Maryland charities have also been the beneficiaries of Meyerhoff's largesse. He helped fund the University of Baltimore's Jewish Studies program, the Louis Kaplan Chair in Jewish History at the University of Maryland at College Park, and the library at Baltimore Hebrew University. In 1980, the National Endowment for the Humanities assisted in creating the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland. Meyerhoff was also president of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra from 1965-83, and in 1982 its current home was opened as the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Cathedral Street south of Preston. Meyerhoff also endowed the Peabody Institute (Johns Hopkins University's music conservatory) as well as the Baltimore Museum of Art, which has a Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Auditorium. Meyerhoff also helped finance the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on Fifteenth Street (Raoul Wallenberg Place) in southwest Washington, DC.

Joseph Meyerhoff died on February 2, 1985, but his Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds continues to give in his name to educational institutions and the arts in Maryland, throughout the United States, and Israel. Originally his only son Harvey was president, but recently Harvey was succeeded by Joseph's granddaughter Jill Hieronimus. Among the many projects that the foundation has funded is a sculpture by Chaim Gross of the Ten Commandments which also was issued as a set of medals.

The Artist



Chaim Gross was born on March 17, 1904 in Wolowa, Galicia, then part of the Austria-Hungarian Empire, but is now the town of Wolow in southwest Poland. His family were Hasidic Jews and his father, Moses Gross, ran a lumber mill in the Carpathian Mountains. They later moved to Slobodka Lesnia and again to the city of Kolomyia, today in southwest Ukraine, just north of Romania. During World War One, the city was conquered by Czarist Russian troops who brutalized the Jews.

Although not yet a teenager, Chaim was pressed into service with the Austrian Army after the front lines shifted east. He escaped in 1916 and made his way to Budapest where he apprenticed with a jeweler. When Hungary went Communist in 1919, they set up free schools and Chaim studied at an art academy. After the 1920 revolution, Chaim was deported and he eventually made his way to New York City to join his

older brother (who had the good fortune to come to the U.S. just as the War began).

New York was a great city for a budding artist. Chaim studied water color and clay and wood sculpting at the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design from 1922-26. He held his first exhibition in 1932, and was commissioned by the Public Works of Art project (WPA) to beautify a number of federal buildings. He had a long and fruitful career, mostly carving stylized human figures in wood and stone. In the 1950s, after visiting Israel, Chaim produced a number of religious sculptures, including *menorot* (candelabras) for several synagogues, and plaques representing the Ten Commandments for the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport in Queens. He won a many awards for his work and the Smithsonian exhibited his art in 1974. Chaim Gross died on May 5, 1991.

The Airport

New York's Idlewild Airport was one of the busiest in the world. The Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn opened up a chapel there in the late 1950s called Our Lady of the Skies. The chapel was demolished in 1965 when the airport expanded, but it was replaced the next year with the Tri-Faith Chapel Plaza, alongside a Protestant chapel and a synagogue (in what passed for diversity back then, only three of America's many religions were officially acknowledged). The New York Board of Rabbis dedicated the International Synagogue at what was now called the John F. Kennedy International Airport in 1967.



On the left is the original sculpture, dedicated at JFK in 1972. At the right is a miniature version that was sold to collectors in 1975. The miniature is about a foot in height.



In 1970, the Joseph Meyerhoff foundation commissioned Chaim Gross to produce panels representing the Ten Commandments to decorate the

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Ark (*bimah*) of the synagogue. These were dedicated in 1972. Each bronze panel contains a Hebrew letter (used as the numerals 1 through 10) and a semi-abstract representation of the particular commandment. Miniature versions attached to walnut tablets with a spring-loaded catch that fits into a groove in the inside rim of the bar were also commissioned by the Judaic Heritage Society for sale to the public for \$650. The ten 32x47mm irregular-shaped bars are pure silver plated in rhodium and platinum with 24 karat gold highlights. Each bar weighs between 1.05 and 1.17 Troy ounces, and are attached to the wooden base. A total of 5735 sets (referring to the Jewish year of issue, which was September 17, 1974 – September 5, 1975) were made. These are the only JHS medals shown by Archie Kidd in his *Indexed Guide Book of Silver Art Bars* (fourth edition) because of their unique design. I managed to buy one from an art dealer on eBay for a small premium over issue price.

The airport expanded again in 1988 and the chapels were temporarily relocated to the International Arrivals Building. In May, 2001 this building was closed and the chapels moved to the new Terminal 4, where they are today. Along with the synagogue, Protestant and Catholic chapels is a masjid (mosque) and a meditation room that can be used by members of any religion. The synagogue is located in the same terminal as El Al, Israel's national airline, and holds daily services. The Ten Commandments plaques are now located along the top of the side walls of the synagogue.

The Sculpture and Medals

A book describing the *Ten Commandments* sculpture was printed in August, 1973 with commentary by Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz. I found a copy on Amazon and was glad I bought it, since it is an invaluable aid in interpreting the artwork. The medals I found at a dealer's shop when he handled the estate of a longtime collector of Judaica. I assume these medals were minted in 1973 or 1974, a time of a minor boom in medallic art thanks to rising silver prices. Each medal is 51mm and contains around 91 grams of silver (almost 2.7 Troy ounces of pure silver). The edge is marked CHARTER EDITION .925 STERLING METAL ARTS CO. I only found medals for the first five commandments, all numbered 403, implying a mintage of 500. I don't know if this issue was discontinued after the first set of five or if medals exist for all ten commandments, since no other dealer I've spoken with has seen these medals. The book was presented by the Judaic Heritage Society, which sponsored a

number of medals from the Franklin Mint. Metal Arts Company still exists in Rochester, New York but stopped striking medals in 2004. They now restrict their work to polishing and plating. What follows is a description of each medal along with a photo of the original plaque.



Each medal has a similar reverse. At top center is a Hebrew letter ה *heh*, which stands for השם *HaShem*, the Name of God, in a sunburst frame that represents light and truth radiating out from God. This figure was on the doors of the original Ark but is not in the new synagogue. At center is Chaim Gross' signature. At top is the legend THE TEN COMMANDMENTS,

and at the bottom is the inscription identifying the number of the commandment on the obverse.



The first commandment, by the Jewish and some Protestant denominations' reckoning, is "I am the Lord your God who brought you forth from Egypt. You will have no other gods." God is represented by the all-seeing eye at top left, and Egypt by the pyramid near the center and broken staff beneath it. A large letter א *alef* stands for 1. Below the pyramid are the Israelites, being crushed by servitude in Egypt and helped by the beneficial rays emanating from the Eye of God, while the flames at right represent the purifying power of the word of God.



The second commandment prohibits worshipping graven images. In the center is the Golden calf being attacked by pick hammers. Below that is the snake as symbol of subversion, linking idolatry with adultery (a theme popular with Israel's prophets). At top right is the letter \beth *beyt*, which is 2. Below the *beyt* is a dove, symbol of fidelity, which faces the opposite direction of the calf and snake.



The third commandment prohibits defaming God, which Gross interprets as adopting an untrue image of the Almighty. The Torah scroll represents God's Name, while God's pointing finger represents the revelation of God's truth in the affairs of humanity. Above is a bird with outstretched wings, raising the viewers gaze heavenward. At top right is λ *gimel*, which is 3.



The fourth commandment establishes the Sabbath. At bottom right is a table with two candles. The rabbis created the tradition of lighting two candles to inaugurate the Sabbath and provide light during the evening when it is prohibited to light new fires. The figures at left are angels facing each other. According to legend, the one facing the candles is a good angel who blesses the observant family, and the angel facing away from the candles is an evil angel who is forced to say "Amen". If the family were not properly observing the Sabbath, the angels' roles would be reversed. At top right is \daleth *dalet*, which represents the number 4.



The fifth commandment requires honoring one's parents. The figure at bottom right is the child, offering flowers and bowing before the two figures at the left which are the father and mother. The dove, a symbol of love, rests behind the parents. At top left is \cap *heh*, here representing the number 5.

Conclusion

The works of one Baltimore man has touched many lives around the world. Meyerhoff translated his financial success into assistance for schools, the arts, and even an entire country. You can see his name being honored at the symphony, museums, and schools. If you are one of the lucky few, you can even own a piece of medallic art that only came into being because of his largesse.

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Maundy Thursday Coins of Great Britain

by Lester White, LM28

Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday, commemorates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. The name Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum* meaning a commandment, and the service begins with the words: "Jesus said, 'I give you a new commandment'." Since the 12th century, a member of the British royal family has participated in a ceremony marking the occasion, which involves bestowing gifts on the poor. The Royal Maundy Thursday Service has its origins in Jesus' act of washing his disciples' feet and symbolizes the monarch's role of serving the people.



*Pictures courtesy of The Standard Catalog of World Coins
Actual diameters are 11, 13, 15, and 17mm*

Today, a group of pensioners, one man and woman for every year of the Queen's life, are chosen to receive two purses of Maundy Money. A white purse contains the special silver Maundy coins, equal to the Sovereign's age, while a red purse has money traditionally given for food and clothes. The purses are carried aloft by the Yeoman of the Guard on six solid silver, gold-plated alms dishes which date from the reign of King Charles II. Each year, the service takes place at a different cathedral or abbey. In 2008, for the first time, the Queen distributed Maundy Money in Northern Ireland when the service was held at Armagh Cathedral. The special four silver coins given were 1 penny, 2 pence, 3 pence, and 4 pence.

Planned for upcoming issues:

Spring 2010 — Maryland's Colonial and State Currency

Summer 2010 — Maryland Indian Peace Medal

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Write an article for the Maryland Numismatist and be in the running to win \$50 in gift certificates redeemable at the November, 2010 Whitman show in Baltimore. There must be at least two more authors who are published in the Spring – Autumn 2010 issues, excluding the editor, who is not eligible. All articles will be entered automatically and will be judged for quality by a panel chosen by the MSNA board.

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Local News



There were no write-in candidates in the **MSNA Elections**. The proposed slate (above) was approved unanimously: President Schadeegg, Treasurer Kuritzky, Secretary Doxzon, and Vice President Burford.

The 2009 **MSNA raffle** results were as follows: the 1998 U.S. \$10 quarter ounce gold eagle went to Donald Dagenhart and a companion 1945 Mexico 2 peso went to Paul Effert who sold the ticket. The 1899 British sovereign went to Hope Stran. The 1999 U.S. \$5 tenth-ounce eagle went to the Montgomery County Coin Club. The 1986 U.S. silver proof eagle went to Steve Hogue.

The ANA presented MSNA life member and local dealer **Julian Leidman** with the first Harry J. Forman Dealer of the Year Award. It was named for the Philadelphia dealer who passed away last year. The award was described in a short article on page 71 of ANA's September, 2009 issue of *The Numismatist*. Leidman has also been in the news lately because his van was broken into in New Jersey and many items stolen on October 11. The PNG has put up a reward to catch the thieves, and the FBI has recovered a significant portion of what was stolen.

Michael Orzano wrote an article on "Advertising Notes" in the October, 2009 issue of *Coin World's Paper Money Values*. The first note he described was a handbill from the Rose Jelly Company of New Midway, Frederick County, Maryland. While the colorful note is undated, the author found in the University of Maryland library company records that indicated it operated from 1881 to 1915. The company also built a toll road out of Woodsboro, Maryland in 1890 that is now Route 194.

Montgomery County Coin Club will hold its annual donated auction on December 9 at the Forest Glen Senior Citizens Center. All proceeds will be donated to the Silver Spring Boys and Girls Club.

The **Montgomery County Coin Club** had a strong turnout for its Golden Anniversary Celebration in September. Highlights included a special program featuring club history testimonials by former presidents, a memorabilia exhibit, gold raffle, wonderful spread of refreshments, and an active auction. Also on display was a copy of the 50th Anniversary recognition certificate received from the ANA.

Amanda Rogers Thorpe of the staff of Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-2) spoke at the October **Montgomery County Coin Club** meeting about HR 2097, the "Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin Act" which the Congressman sponsored. The bill authorizes \$5 gold coins and \$1 silver coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner to be issued in 2012. The bill passed the House on September 9 and has been sent to the Senate.

Several members of the **Catonsville Coin Club**, plus one **Baltimore Coin Club** member, made a day trip to Philadelphia to visit the Penn Museum (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology) to see its collections of ancient Greek and Roman coins. They also visited the U.S. Mint.

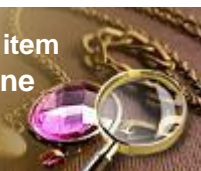
The **Catonsville Coin Club** October meeting featured Bill Cowburn of York, Pennsylvania presenting "The Evolution of the Design of the Trade Dollar."

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President **Frank Palumbo** of the Washington Numismatic Society (the club that most recently became a member of MSNA) and Smithsonian Numismatic Curator **Dick Doty** were quoted in an article in the September, 2009 issue of *COINage* on the new Smithsonian numismatic exhibit. It will be on display in the American History museum first floor east wing for at least three years.

George Fuld wrote an article on the Maryland Medal in the Maryland Historical Society collection in the April, 2009 issue of *The MCA Advisory: The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America*. A picture was included in the May issue and the notes from the MHS meetings concerning the medal appear in the September issue. Also, Mr. Fuld received his seventh Heath Literary Award and third Wayte and Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award as reported on page 72 of the November, 2009 *The Numismatist*.

Virginia collector **Howard A. Daniel III** wrote in to *The Numismatist* about the Maryland Mining Company of Bethesda, which provided gold to the U.S. Mint for a century before being purchased by the government. His letter was printed on page 16 of the September, 2009 issue.

Former Mint Director **Jay Johnson** passed away of a heart attack on September 17 at age 66. He was also a radio journalist and one-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He spoke at the December, 2003 MSNA Education Forum at the Baltimore Coin Show.

MSNA Past President **Tom Palmer** has joined the Board of Directors of the Ancient Coin Collectors Guild (ACCG). [Editor's note: "Ancient" modifies "Coin" and not "Collector"!] The ACCG was formed as a focal point for numismatists to act (through education campaigns, lobbying, and even filing law suits) against the growing phenomenon of countries declaring older coins to be "national treasure" that cannot be legally exported or collected outside of their borders. Tom is also running for the Board of Directors of Florida United Numismatists (FUN). MSNA is a member of FUN, and the MSNA Board cast a ballot for Tom.

MSNA Souvenir Sheets for sale

The following are available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5. All are black on white, cream, or buff card stock with a numismatic vignette and lengthy description, and were issued in conjunction with a MSNA convention. Picture files are available by email on request. All purchases should be

made through the editor and checks made out to MSNA. Include \$2 for postage unless arrangements are made to pick up the sheets at a Baltimore Coin Club or MSNA board meeting.

1982 Farmers Bank of Maryland \$10 note of 1814

vignette of farmer with plow pulled by a horse, near tree

1983 Chalmers ring shilling coin of 1783 (line drawing)

interlocking rings, stars, eye of God, clasped hands

1988 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal scrip 50 cents for Alleghany Co., 1838

3 vignettes: Indian warrior, steam locomotive, woman sowing

1989 Baltimore & Susquehanna Rail Road \$100 of 1839

vignette of steam trains, factories, ships and another of a cherub

1990 Baltimore Savings Institution 25 cents of 1840

2 vignettes: woman standing, harbor scene with people, ships

1992 Marine Bank of Baltimore \$10 of 1842

vignette of sailing ships, small vignettes of anchor and shield

1993 Baltimore City Hotel 6¼ cents of June 1, 1837

hotel facade

1994 Colony of Maryland legal tender note for 10/- of 1734

fancy left-hand border, colonial (Lord Baltimore) coat of arms

1995 Howard Bank \$20 of 1863 cancelled on May 3, 1915

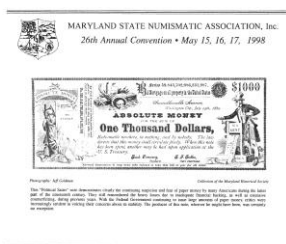
3 vignettes: man's bust, sailor's bust, steam and sail ship in NY

1996 Utopian Bank of Baltimore unissued note for \$5 circa 1825

2 vignettes: horse cart with houses, family sitting at table

1997 Bank of Baltimore \$5 of 1799

rearing horse on shield with palm branches



1998 Satirical note called Absolute Money for \$1000 dated 1880

vignettes of fox guarding geese, cornucopia with skull, Uncle Sam converting rags to paper money

1999 Eaton & Burnett's Business College Bank of Baltimore 1878

\$1 note with vignettes of both founders and Baltimore harbor plus photos of metal tokens for 1, 5, 10, and 25 cents

- 2000 Vauxhall Drinking Institution 6¼ cents of 1839
vignettes of casks and fancy bottles
- 2001 Patapsco Savings Fund \$2 of 1840, vignettes of signing the
Declaration of Independence, Washington, woman with book
- 2002 Bank of Baltimore \$10 of 1835
vignettes of Lord Baltimore's seal, woman seated with shield
- 2003 Continental currency note of \$30, issued in Baltimore, 1777
both sides, wreath on altar, farm scene, radiant sun
- 2004 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal \$10 of 1841
shepherd by hay stack, signing the Declaration of Independence
- 2005 Bank of Salisbury \$5 of 1848
2 embracing cherubim in V, bust of Zachary Taylor
- 2006 Somerset & Worcester Savings Bank \$3 of 1862 (in color)
vignettes of woman facing, woman left, work scene
- 2007 Bank of Salisbury \$2 of 1846
Washington bust, woman with book, woman with baby
- 2008 Baltimore & Jerusalem Turnpike certificate for two shares 1869
Maryland state seal, horse drawn wagons in front of buildings
(This is the only sheet associated with an ANA convention)

MSNA Encased State Quarters for sale



MSNA and Maryland Token and Medal Society (MTAMS) together produced these encased quarters back in 2001 to honor the original 13 states, of which Maryland is number 10. The aluminum encasing is the same for all coins. Originally these sold for \$3 each or a complete set of 13 for \$40. The Maryland quarter (as one might suspect) is sold out, but the other 12 are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at \$3 each or 4 for \$10. All purchases should be made through the editor and checks made out to MSNA. Include \$2 for postage unless arrangements are made to pick up the coins at a Baltimore Coin Club or MSNA board meeting.

The available state quarters are:

- 1999: Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Delaware, New Jersey
2000: Virginia, Massachusetts, South Carolina, New Hampshire
2001: North Carolina, New York, Rhode Island

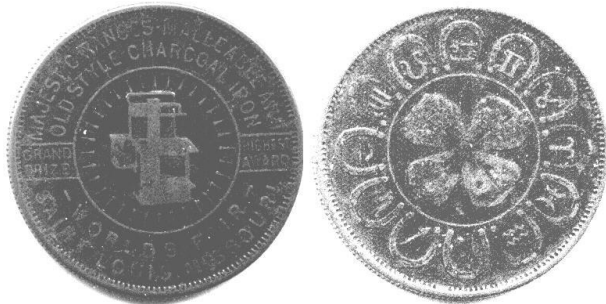
What's Your Sign?

Part Four: Zodiac Medals and the World's Fairs

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

My first three columns focused on the basics of zodiac numismatics; now we finally get to the medals themselves. A large number of zodiac-themed medals have been issued over the last century or so. Most are undated, but the style and workmanship seem modern. The oldest dated pieces were issued in conjunction with major expositions.

The Columbian Exposition in Chicago 1892-3 was responsible for a large number of numismatic firsts, among them the first true American commemorative coinage, elongated coins, and encased coins. Unfortunately, I have yet to track any zodiac medals back that far. However, the first is not much later, from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, commemorating the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase. This medal was issued by Majestic Ranges and it shows a radiate range on the obverse with the inscription MAJESTIC RANGES-MALLEABEE AW OLD STYLE CHARCOAL IRON at top, GRAND PRIZE HIGHEST AWARD across the center and WORLD'S FAIR SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI at bottom. The reverse of Majestic's medal has a lucky four-leaf clover and twelve horseshoes. In each horseshoe is a different zodiac sigil, in sequence, starting with Aries at 3 o'clock and proceeding counterclockwise. These medals are fairly common, though often very worn. They are 32.2mm brass and weigh 11.3 grams.



Earthstation9.com, the on-line World's Fair Guide, indicates charcoal-, electric-, gas-, and coal-powered stoves were all on display at the fair. Majestic was one of several stove companies, including Excelsior Stove, General Electric, Detroit Stove Works, and Quincy Stove. These were probably located in the Palace of Manufactures.

The next exposition with zodiac medals is the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 held to honor the opening of the Panama Canal. This set is the first to take on the familiar style of including twelve medals, one for each zodiac sign. The obverse has a figure of the zodiac with the Latin name along the top edge and the dates along the bottom. Between the begin and end dates is a small word TO and over that is a tiny sigil for that zodiac sign. The field is pebbled like a hardbound book, which makes photography difficult.



The obverse inscriptions are as follows:

♈	ARIES	MCH. 21 TO APR. 19
♉	TAURUS	APR. 20 TO MAY 19
♊	GEMINI	MAY 20 TO JUNE 18
♋	CANCER	JUNE 19 TO JULY 23
♌	LEO	JULY 24 TO AUG. 22
♍	VIRGO	AUG. 23 TO SEPT. 21
♎	LIBRA	SEPT. 22 TO OCT. 21
♏	SCORPIO	OCT. 22 TO NOV. 20
♐	SAGITTARIUS	NOV. 21 TO DEC. 20
♑	CAPRICORN	DEC. 21 TO JAN. 19
♒	AQUARIUS	JAN. 20 TO FEB. 18
♓	PISCES	FEB. 19 TO MCH. 20



The common reverse shows a twelve-pointed star with MY LUCKY STAR in the center. Around the edge of the dodecagram are the sigils of the twelve signs in sequence, starting with Aries at 9 o'clock and proceeding counterclockwise. At the top is the city of issue SAN FRANCISCO and at the bottom is EXPOSITION CITY 1915.

It is possible these medals were struck on site, possibly to order for all paying customers. These are not easy to find. I had bought one on eBay many years ago when suddenly a group appeared and I managed to buy an entire set. It looks like that was a one-time hoard that came to light, since I've seen very few since then and rarely by coin dealers. The medals are all thick bronze, 26.7mm in diameter and weigh 9.2 grams with reeded edges.

The last exposition I could find zodiac medals for was the Century of Progress Exposition of 1933-34, commemorating the centennial of the City of Chicago. It included a colonial village with a Salem, Massachusetts Witch House, emphasizing the infamous witch trials of 1692. Other colonial sites included the Betsy Ross House, Mount Vernon, Boston's Old North Church, Paul Revere's House, the House of Seven Gables, and Ben Franklin's print shop. The Colonial Village was still under construction in 1933 when the fair first opened, along with the neighboring English, Irish, Spanish, Italian, Swiss, German, and Tunisian Villages.



The medal has on the obverse just the inscription WITCHES CAVE COLONIAL VILLAGE A CENTURY OF PROGRESS 1934. The

reverse has a sunburst pattern in the center with the outside divided into 12 sections, each with the name, sigil, begin and end dates, and a representation of the constellation star pattern. These are also given in counterclockwise sequence. The signs and dates are:

♈	ARIES	MA. 21	AP. 19
♉	TAURUS	AP. 19	MA. 21
♊	GEMINI	MA. 21	JUN. 22
♋	CANCER	JUN. 22	JUL. 22
♌	LEO	JUL. 22	AU. 22
♍	VIRGO	AU. 22	SE. 23
♎	LIBRA	SE. 23	OC. 23
♏	SCORPION	OC. 23	NO. 22
♐	SAGITTARIUS	NO. 22	DE. 22
♑	CAPRICORN	DE. 22	JA. 19
♒	AQUARIUS	JA. 19	FE. 19
♓	PISCES	FE. 19	MA. 21

One might notice that these dates don't match the ones on the Pan-Pac medals (except for Aries). They also recognize the "cusp", which is to say that the zodiac sign changes sometime during the day so both signs are attached to the transition day (e.g., April 19 belongs to both Aries and Taurus). Also, due to lack of room, only 2 character month abbreviations are used (except for June and July) so March and May are both MA. This star pattern reverse was later used by Lucky Buddha medals (to be covered in a later column), although there the dates were moved to the edge where there's more room. Also, Scorpio is shown with the English name Scorpion (which may have been unintentional) while all the others use the Latin name. The bronze medal is 35mm in diameter and weighs 13.4 grams. This is the only example I've seen; even web sites on Chicago Fair memorabilia didn't show these medals.

The nice thing about zodiac medals from expositions is that we have a definite date of issue. Unfortunately, I was not able to locate any contemporary accounts of how these medals were sold (e.g., by a fortune-telling machine or in person, with a booklet or in a holder) or for how much. It seems that some of the souvenir vendors decided to enhance the desirability of their wares by adding lucky stars to them.

COIN SHOW DATES

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

27 Dec. 2009 – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

24 Jan. 2010 – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4.

31 Jan. –Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

21 Feb. – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

28 Feb.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

4-7 Mar. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W Pratt St.; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will sponsor competitive exhibits at this show.*

28 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

11 Apr.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

22 May–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

6 June – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4.

17-20 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA Distinguished Speakers Series Lecture on Friday.*

27 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

25 July –Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

15 Aug.–Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

Exhibit in Baltimore

1. Exhibit applications should be received no later than January 31, 2010. Applications received after that date will be accepted if space and cases are available. MSNA membership is not required.
2. All exhibits are to be in place by 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 6, 2010 and are not to be removed without permission of the Exhibit Chairman prior to 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Exhibitors may enter at the same time as dealers (9:00 A.M.) and can set up all day on Friday, March 5, 2010 (9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.).
3. It is understood that your exhibit case(s) will be opened **ONLY** in your presence.
4. All keys are to be retained by the Exhibit chairman.
5. All materials in a display must be the exclusive property of the exhibitor. If a club exhibits, it must own the material.
6. Any material in a display which is not genuine must be so identified.
7. The name or identity of exhibitors shall not appear in exhibits.
8. No exhibit shall contain advertising for items that are for sale.
9. The right is reserved to restrict material outside of the exhibit case(s) which might distract attention from other exhibits.
10. The maximum number of cases per single exhibit is six (6). If more than one exhibit is entered by a single exhibitor, there will be a maximum of ten (10) cases total.
11. There will be two classifications of exhibits: Junior (exhibitors under 18) and Senior. Open judging will be used (no categories) to allow all exhibits to be in maximum competition with each other. The awards will include a Best of Show Award, Master and Superior. Appreciation awards will be given to all other exhibitors who display exhibits. Collectors may enter more than one exhibit, but will be entitled to receive **only ONE award** (except that other organizations, such as MD-TAMS, may sponsor their own awards which are given independently of the MSNA exhibit awards).
12. Exhibits of material owned by more than one person or club may be entered non-competitively. Also, any exhibits by the Exhibit Chairman or anyone serving as exhibit judge can only be entered non-competitively; the case restrictions mentioned above still apply.
13. Please request from and mail exhibit applications to:

Bryce Doxzon
1712 Langford Road
Baltimore, MD 21207

MARYLAND STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
March 4-7, 2010
Baltimore Convention Center
One West Pratt St.
Baltimore, Maryland

Date: _____

EXHIBITOR: (please print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

CLUB AFFILIATION(S): _____

THE EXHIBITOR IS (check one): **JUNIOR** _____ (under 18) **SENIOR** _____MY EXHIBIT WILL BE: **COMPETITIVE** _____ **NON-COMPETITIVE** _____**TYPE OF NUMISMATIC MATERIAL TO BE EXHIBITED:**

U.S. COINS _____ FOREIGN COINS _____

U.S. PAPER MONEY _____ FOREIGN PAPER MONEY _____

ANCIENT COINS _____ GOLD _____

TOKENS _____ MEDALS _____

OTHER (Please specify) _____

EXHIBIT TITLE: _____

NUMBER OF CASES (Maximum of 6): _____

I WILL NEED CASES _____ I HAVE MY OWN CASES _____

CASES TO BE FLAT ON TABLE: **HORIZONTAL** _____ **VERTICAL** _____

OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

MAIL SIGNED APPLICATION TO:

Bryce Doxzon
1712 Langford Road
Baltimore, MD 21207

EXHIBITOR
SIGNATURE _____**GUARDIAN**
SIGNATURE _____
(if a minor)

If more than one exhibit is to be entered, submit an application for each one. A total of ten cases may be used for all exhibits. If also renewing membership, mail all materials to Bryce who will forward the materials as necessary.



**Maryland State Numismatic
Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504**

Dedicated to attaining knowledge and fulfillment in Numismatics

Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____ MSNA #: _____ (for renewal)

I hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc., subject to its constitution & by-laws. (Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Check here for a renewal membership card. Please enclose SASE.

☐ Tax-deductible donation to MSNA \$ _____ .

The items below are only requested for original membership application:

Numismatic specialties: _____

Other Numismatic Affiliations: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor No. 1: _____

Sponsor No. 2: _____

For junior membership please include:

Guardian Signature: _____ Birth Year: _____

Fee of \$15 (club), \$10 (individual) or \$2 (junior, under 18) must accompany this form for current calendar year dues. Life member upgrades are: \$200 (age 50 & under), \$125 (51-65), \$75 (66 & over). Pay by check, money order, or PayPal (direct bank transfer or e-check only as a gift to Simcha.Kuritzky@cgifederal.com).

MEMBER CLUBS IN GOOD STANDING (* denotes charter)

Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition P. O. Box 3273 Baltimore, MD 21228-0273	Baltimore Coin Club * P. O. Box 43681 Baltimore, MD 21236-0681 (410) 284-8382	Bowie Coin Club P. O. Box 913 Bowie, MD 20718-0913 bowiecoinclub.com
Belmar Coin Club * P. O. Box 273 Fallston, MD 21047	Cambridge Coin Club P. O. Box 932 Cambridge, MD 21613	Harford Coin Huskers* P. O. Box 2 Fork, MD 21051
Carroll Co. Coin Club* c/o Lester A. White 10 West Main Street Westminster, MD 21157 Les.white.1@juno.com	Catonsville Coin Club * P. O. Box 3273 Baltimore, MD 21228-0273 Bryce.Doxzon@us.army.mil	Colonial Coin Club * P. O. Box 884 Annapolis, MD 21401 geocities.com/thecolonialcoinclub/ColonialCoin.html
Frederick County Coin Club P. O. Box 1164 Frederick, MD 21702 ccplants@ufl.edu	Maryland Token & Medal Society P. O. Box 644 Gambrills, MD 21054	St. Maries Coin Club P. O. Box 365 Lusby, MD 20657 smcc.anaclubs.org
Middle River Coin Club * c/o Baltimore County Dept. of Recreation & Parks Victory Villa Community Ctr 404 Compass Road Baltimore, MD 21220	Montgomery County Coin Club P. O. Box 13504 Silver Spring, MD 20911 montgomerycoinclub.org	Salisbury Coin Club * c/o George Pletha, Jr. 11437 Hudson White Road Deal Island, MD 21821-1143
Interstate Coin Club P. O. Box 1901 Hagerstown, MD 21742	Perry Hall Coin Club * P. O. Box 2 Fork, MD 21051	Maryland Numismatic Society P. O. Box 681 Riderwood, MD 21139
South Glen Burnie Coin Club c/o Darrel King 8017 Clark Station Road Severn, MD 21144 sgbcc.com	Washington Numismatic Society P. O. Box 9413 Washington, DC 20016 wns.anaclubs.org	Western Maryland Coin Club* 662 Greene Street, Suite 2 Cumberland, MD 21502

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Simcha Kuritzky
Post Office Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

or via E-Mail to:
Simcha.Kuritzky@cgifederal.com

PayPal bank transfers or e-checks only may be made to above address.
Please include your full name.

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Numismatic Association
P. O. Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD
20911-3504

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